#1 of 10: Share of Arriving Households From the Top Three Counties

# DFW's Inbound Migration Is Shockingly Concentrated

Top 3 source counties drive 12.2% of arrivals

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THE DATA

# 12.2%

**Share of Arriving Households From the Top Three Counties (2023)**

The top three source counties—Harris, Travis, and Los Angeles—account for just over a tenth of all inbound households to DFW.

This concentration reveals that DFW's growth is not broadly distributed across the U.S., but instead heavily dependent on a few high-mobility regions. Travis County, TX, signals that Austin's rising housing prices are spilling into DFW's more affordable corridors. Los Angeles County's presence underscores the national trend of coast-to-interior migration, with California's affordability crisis driving a steady stream of relocations.



Photo: David Wilson from Oak Park, Illinois, USA · CC BY 2.0 · Wikimedia Commons

Source: U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Migration Data, county-to-county inflows, 2022-23 · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-06-dfw-msa-mig-county-top3

# 01

## Growth Is Not Geographic—It’s Economic

The dominance of Harris and Travis Counties in DFW’s inbound migration reflects a pattern of economic displacement, not broad appeal. Both are high-cost, high-tax jurisdictions with constrained housing supply. Their residents are not moving for climate or culture alone—they are escaping unaffordable living conditions. This suggests DFW’s growth is less about attracting new talent from anywhere and more about absorbing a specific cohort: professionals displaced by rising costs in Texas’ two largest metros. This is not organic growth—it is reactionary migration driven by policy and market failure elsewhere.

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# 02

## The Real Engine of DFW's Expansion

Los Angeles County's inclusion in the top three is a critical signal: the migration isn't just intra-Texas. It's national. California's high housing costs, regulatory burdens, and climate risks are fueling a broader exodus that DFW is capturing. This is not a temporary spike—it's a structural shift. The fact that LA County ranks third suggests DFW is not just a regional alternative but a national destination for displaced professionals. This migration pattern reinforces DFW's position as a logistical and economic counterweight to the nation's most expensive cities.

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